

Posted: AdDept: S. A. & ORSDate: 1/18/07Time: 4:55

183849

Duke, Daphne

From: Easterling, Deborah
Sent: Tuesday, January 16, 2007 4:26 PM
To: SCPCA -- Walter Rice
Cc: Duke, Daphne
Subject: RE: Workshops

2007-27-C

Dear Mr. Rice:

This is to acknowledge receipt of your email to our PSC Website Comments. I am forwarding your email to our Docketing Department for handling.

Please let me know if you should require any additional information.

Sincerely,

Deborah Easterling

From: SCPCA -- Walter Rice [mailto:scpca1@comcast.net]
Sent: Monday, January 15, 2007 1:01 PM
To: Easterling, Deborah
Cc: commissioner.wright.psc.sc.gov; commissioner.clyburn.psc.sc.gov; commissioner.mitchell.psc.sc.gov
Subject: Workshops

Good Morning PSC,

I've noticed the scheduling of "workshops" for various industries regulated by the PSC over the past months. What would the Public Communication Industry (Payphone Service Providers - PSPs) need to do to have a workshop scheduled for our industry?

I doubt there has been more change in any industry than in Public Communications in SC, and the nation, over the past five to ten years. Just a short time ago - five to seven years - the great majority of public communications in SC (payphones) were owned and operated by the Local Exchange Companies, but no more. Our estimates indicate 80%, OR MORE, of the pay telephones located in SC are owned and operated by "private" small business concerns! BellSouth / AT&T, the grand-daddy of them all no longer provides public communications at all along with several smaller SC LECs dropping their public phones as well. The nature of the public telecommunication industry has changed tremendously during this time as well!

Over the past few years the Legislature and the PSC have indicated the need for a dependable "public communications" system in SC for the benefit of those in rural areas, emergencies on the states highway system, cities and towns, and for homeland security but with little to no changes in the regulatory

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process or cost to insure this would happen.

How about some consideration for the PSPs in SC with a workshop to review the regulatory process, cost, and a view of the future from the new leaders of the public communications industry - Payphone Service Providers - the owners and operators of that system today and into the future?

Thank You,

Walter Rice, President
South Carolina Public
Communications Association (SCPCA)